

## Claims

I claim:

1. A method of operating a distributed parallel processing system having machine generated sweepstakes entries, comprising:
  - providing a server system;
  - coupling the server system to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices;
  - providing entries to a sweepstakes as an incentive to couple the distributed devices to the server system through the network so that the distributed devices are capable of performing workloads for the distributed parallel processing system; and
  - receiving machine generated entries from the distributed devices.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an entry workload to the distributed devices.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving completed results of the entry workload from the distributed devices, the completed results representing a sweepstakes entry.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the entry workload is sent at regular time intervals by the server system.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein a completed entry workload must be received back from a distributed device within a selected period of time for an entry to be given to the distributed device.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a client agent that operates on the distributed devices to perform workloads and to send to the server system the machine generated entries.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the client agent sends machine generated entries on at regular time intervals depending upon a status for the distributed device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the status comprises whether the distributed device is processing workloads for the distributed processing system.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising sending an entry workload to the distributed device, the client agent utilizing the entry workload to generate sweepstakes entries.

10. A distributed processing system having machine generated sweepstakes entries, comprising:

a server system coupled to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices; and

a sweepstakes database coupled to the server system, the sweepstakes database storing machine generated entries associated with a plurality of the distributed devices, the plurality of distributed devices being capable of performing a workload for the distributed parallel processing system.

11. The distributed processing system of claim 10, wherein the machine generated entry comprises results from an entry workload sent to the distributed devices.

12. The distributed processing system of claim 11, wherein the entry workload is sent at regular time intervals by the server system.

13. The distributed processing system of claim 12, wherein a completed entry workload must be received back from a distributed device within a selected period of time for an entry to be given to the distributed device.

5 14. The distributed processing system of claim 10, further comprising a client agent that operates on the distributed devices to perform workloads and to send to the server system the machine generated entries.

10 15. The distributed processing system of claim 14, wherein the client agent sends machine generated entries on at regular time intervals depending upon a status for the distributed device.

16. The distributed processing system of claim 15, wherein the status comprises whether the distributed device is processing workloads for the distributed processing system.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the machine generated entry comprises results from an entry workload sent to the distributed devices and processed by the client agent.